

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof, rewrite claim 2 in independent form, amend claims 4 and 5, cancel claims 7-11 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof, and add the new claims as shown below.

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (canceled)

2. (currently amended) ~~The body probe for MRI according to claim 1, A~~
body probe for MRI having reception coils for picking up an image for use in an MRI
apparatus, said reception coils being provided in a center coil portion and two side
coil portions, wherein slide mechanisms of said side coil portions are provided at
joint portions between said center coil portion and said side coil portions.

3. (original) The body probe for MRI according to claim 2, wherein smooth surfaces are formed on both right and left sides of said center coil portion and constitute said slide mechanisms.

4. (currently amended) The body probe for MRI according to ~~any one of~~
~~claims 1 to 3~~ claim 2, wherein a bottom surface of said center coil portion is curved.

5. (currently amended) The body probe for MRI according to claim ~~4~~2, wherein an indicator indicating a center of a center coil is provided at a center of a top surface of said center coil portion.

6. (original) The body probe for MRI according to claim 5, wherein said indicator indicating said center of said center coil is a groove, a projection or a line drawn in color different from a color around said line.

Claims 7-11 (canceled)

12. (new) A body probe for MRI having reception coils for picking up an image for use in an MRI apparatus,
said reception coils being provided in a center coil portion, a pair of side coil portions and a base coil portion, and
side-coil connecting portions provided on both sides of said base coil portion, wherein said pair of side coil portions are attached by said side-coil connecting portions to said base coil portion so as to be movable at an arbitrary angle with respect to said base coil portion, and said center coil portion enables coupling of said pair of side coil portions together.

13. (new) The body probe for MRI according to claim 12, wherein said base coil portion is provided with a head holder for holding the head of a subject to be examined.

14. (new) The body probe for MRI according to claim 12, wherein said center coil portion, said pair of side coil portions and said base coil portion are constructed independently of one another.

15. (new) The body probe for MRI according to claim 12, wherein said side coil portions are constructed by embedding a flexible coil in a soft member.

16. (new) The body probe for MRI according to claim 12, wherein said side coil portions are provided with cutaway holes at portions where there are no coil portions.

17. (new) An MRI apparatus using a body probe having reception coils for picking up an image,

said reception coils being provided in a center coil portion, a pair of side coil portions and a base coil portion, and

side-coil connecting portions provided on both sides of said base coil portion, wherein said pair of side coil portions are attached by said side-coil connecting portions to said base coil portion so as to be movable at an arbitrary angle with respect to said base coil portion, and said center coil portion enables coupling of said pair of side coil portions together.